

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

*** PLEASE NOTE THAT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

INFORMATION IS REQUESTED TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR
COMMISSION MEMBERS.

Name: Mark E. Stephens

Date of Birth: September 19, 1953

Race: Caucasian

Gender: M

Office Address: 1101 Liberty Street

Knoxville, TN 37919

Office Phone: (865) 594-6120

Facsimile: (865) 594-6169

Email Address: mstephens@pdknox.org

Home Address:

County of
Residence: Knox

Home Phone:

Cellular Phone:

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MAY 31 2011

AOC
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

1. Indicate your present occupation.

District Public Defender - Sixth Judicial District

2. a. If you are an attorney, state the year you were licensed to practice law in Tennessee and provide your BPR Number.

1980 BPR 007151

- b. If you are an attorney, identify your primary subject area(s) of practice, present and past.

1980-1982 Private Practice (mainly criminal defense)
1982-1983 Referee Judge Knox County Juvenile Court
1983-1986 Knox County District Attorney's Office
1986-1990 Private Practice
1990-Present District Public Defender

3. Please indicate the amount of time that you have been a citizen of the State of Tennessee.

36 years

4. List the county or counties you have resided in over the past year.

Knox

5. Are you a salaried office holder of the State of Tennessee or the United States?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6. If your response to question 5 was yes, are you a member of the National Guard, member of any armed forces reserve organization, district attorney general or employee of a district attorney general, district public defender, or employee of a district public defender?

☒ Yes ☐ No

7. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted, or are you now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance (other than traffic related offenses such as speeding, seatbelt violations, or parking tickets)? Give date, court, charge and disposition.

No

8. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details.

No

9. Please state reasons why you would like to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission. (300 words or less)

I would like to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission because I believe this Commission performs one of the most critical functions for our system of justice.

I graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1979 and was licensed to practice law in 1980. I have actively engaged in the practice of law for thirty-one years. I have a diverse background, having been in private practice, worked as a Referee Judge in the Knox County Juvenile Court, practiced as an Assistant District Attorney General, and as the elected District Public Defender in the Sixth Judicial District (Knox County).

I currently manage an office of nearly sixty employees and am responsible for a budget of approximately four million dollars. I have been in courtrooms for all of my practice and have tried some of the more complex cases in Knox County. I understand and appreciate what a critical component our judiciary is to our system of justice. An organized, disciplined, knowledgeable, and dedicated judge establishes expectations for all the participants in a courtroom. The judge sets the context under which all in the courtroom perform.

I believe my experience, judgment and knowledge will allow me to fairly consider judicial applicants' credentials and make decisions based on an applicant's knowledge of the law, temperament, and the ability of the applicant to function independently of all outside influences.

10. The Lieutenant Governor (Speaker of the Senate) and the Speaker of the House both have appointments to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Please indicate to which office you would like your application to be sent for consideration.

- ☐ Lieutenant Governor
- ☐ Speaker of the House
- ☒ Both Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House

11. By checking each of the boxes below, I certify that this information is correct:

- ☒ I am not employed as a registered lobbyist.
- ☒ I am not an employer of a registered lobbyist.
- ☒ I do not hold office in any political party or political organization.

Dated this the 31st day of May, 20 11.



Signature of Applicant

Upon Completion, please forward this application to:

**Administrative Office of the Courts
Judicial Nominating Commission
511 Union Street, Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219**